



FORBIDDEN TALES OF

20¢

NO. 15
MAR.
30525

FORBIDDEN
TALES OF
DARK MANSION



DARK MANSION



In This Issue...

THE ~~SHOCKER~~ OF THE YEAR--
"A SLAY RIDE WITH SANTA!"



Are you ready for a Daisy B•B Gun? Your parents have ways of knowing.

Remember when you got your bike? You promised to use it safely. Stay off busy streets. Look before you cross an intersection. Keep it out of the driveway.

Well, safety is even more important with a Daisy than with a bike. Because a Daisy is a B•B gun. It's not a toy.

If you keep those promises with your bike, your parents will see that you're ready for a Daisy.

We think every boy should have the thrill of owning a Daisy B•B Gun. But we want him to be ready.

We want him to know about the responsibility of owning a B•B gun.

So, before you ask for a Daisy, think it over. Discuss it with your parents. Tell them how you've kept your promise and met your responsibilities.

When you find that you're ready for a Daisy, you'll find a Daisy B•B Gun ready and waiting for you.

Send for "The Air Rifle Marksman." Mail your name, address, and 25c to Daisy, P.O. Box 220, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.



Daisy
SINCE 1896

The B•B Gun every boy dreams about.

Division Vester Comptometer Corporation Rogers, Arkansas 72756

SEASONS SALUTATIONS,
SWEETIES! LIKE MY NEW
CAULDRON...IT'S A
GIFT FROM MY FAVORITE
FEN FIEND!

I'M STIRRING UP A BATCH
OF HOLIDAY TREATS--TALES
TO THRILL AND MAYBE EVEN
TERRORIZE!

LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR YOU
MUSIC LOVERS, WE HAVE A
SMALL CHILLER TITLED "THE
DEMON HORN" PROBABLY
IT'LL...ER...BLOW YOUR MIND!

AND FOR YOU WHO DIG THE
CLASSICS, TAKE A LOOK AT
OUR VERSION OF NATHANIEL
HAWTHORNE'S "FEATHERTOP,"
A SOULFUL SAGA ABOUT A
SCARECROW!

BUT THE *BIG* TREAT
IN THIS VISIT TO THE
DARK MANSION
IS ON THE *VERY*
NEXT PAGE! MEET
YOU THERE IN A
HALF SEC...

...AND HERE I AM! I'M SO GLAD YOU'VE DECIDED TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH ME, CURLED UP BY A WARM FIREPLACE IN THE INNER RECESSES OF THE DARK MANSION! AND YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS EVE, AND I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS...

A SLAY RIDE WITH SANTA



SCRIPT BY
MICHAEL FLEISHER
SCRIPT CONTINUITY BY
RUSSELL CARLEY

DAN GREEN

ANYBODY CAN HAVE A RED SUIT...
BUT THE REAL SANTA ALWAYS HAS
TOYS FOR US KIDS... AND YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY!



NO NO NO! SO
IT'S TOYS
YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT,
IS IT? WELL,
DON'T YOU
WORRY ABOUT
A THING!

I'M REALLY NOT SUPPOSED TO
GIVE OUT ANY TOYS UNTIL LATE
TONIGHT, AFTER ALL THE LITTLE BOYS
AND GIRLS ARE FAST ASLEEP!

BUT SINCE
YOU'RE MY
SPECIAL FRIEND,
I'M GOING TO TAKE
YOU TO MY WORK-
SHOP AND GIVE
YOU YOUR TOY
RIGHT NOW!



YOU ARE?
NOW! THANKS,
SANTA!



PRESENTLY...

I-IS THIS YOUR
WORKSHOP, SANTA?
I THOUGHT--

--THAT I LIVED AT THE
NORTH POLE? WITH A
BUNCH OF ELVES?

NOW ISN'T
THAT SILLY? YOU
DIDN'T REALLY
BELIEVE ALL THAT
NONSENSE, DID
YOU?

N-NO...
NOT
REALLY!



NOW YOU COME RIGHT ON
INSIDE WITH ME...AND
I'LL HAVE THAT TOY
FOR YOU IN A JIFFY!

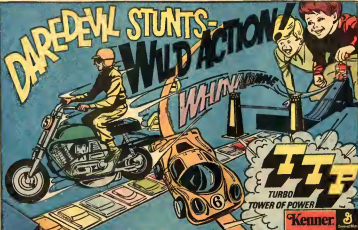




MINUTES PASSED... QUIET MINUTES... INTERRUPTED ONLY BY THE JOLLY BANTER OF A MAKE-BELIEVE SANTA AND THE HAPPY LAUGHTER OF A LITTLE GIRL! AND THEN...



CONTINUES ON 347 PAGE FOLLOWING



PUMP THE TOWER - HEAR THE JET-LIKE WHINE!
AS AIR JET SPINS GYRO-POWER
WHEEL FASTER AND FASTER
THE POWER IS IN THE TOWER!

NO BATTERIES!

5 EXCITING Kenner ACTION SETS

- TIP TOWER & CAR • TIP CYCLE ACTION SET
- TIP TOWER & CYCLE • TIP CAR STUNT SET
- TIP DELUXE THRILL SET



CARS AND CYCLES ALSO SOLD SEPARATELY!



FOR THE
BEST COMICS



MEANWHILE, NOT
FAR AWAY...

HERE YOU ARE, MRS.
GREEN... ALL **FIXED UP**
AND **REPAINTED** SO IT'S
AS GOOD AS NEW!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
FOR THE **LIFE** OF ME
WHY SOME FOLKS THROW
THESE OLD TOYS AWAY!

WH-WHY
THANK YOU,
MR. KRINGULL!
I-IT'S...
BEAUTIFUL!

KRISTOPHER
KRINGULL
MENDER OF TOYS

I **SWEAR**, MR. KRINGULL, THE WAY YOU
MEND THESE OLD TOYS SO THAT US...
US FOLKS THAT DON'T HAVE MUCH CAN
STILL HAVE A **MERRY CHRISTMAS**...
WH-WHY THERE'S
SOMETHIN' **MAGICAL**
ABOUT IT!

PSHAW!
LET ME TELL
YOU SOMETHING...

THERE'S MORE
MAGIC IN THE **SMILE**
OF ONE **HAPPY CHILD**,
THAN IN ALL THE TOYS
IN **CREATION!** YOU
REMEMBER THAT,
HEAR?

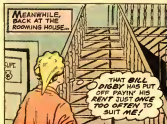
I-I SURELY
WILL, MR. KRINGULL!
B-BUT H-HOW...
M-MUCH...

NOT A DARN **THING**, MRS.
GREEN! I'M JUST PLEASED AS
PUNCH THAT I WAS ABLE TO **FIX**
UP ALL THE **BROKEN TOYS** IN
MY SHOP IN TIME FOR
CHRISTMAS!

TONIGHT IS
CHRISTMAS
EVE, YOU KNOW,
AND I WANT
TO **CLOSE UP**
EARLY!

GOT AN IMPORTANT LITTLE -- ER --
ERRAND TO PERFORM TONIGHT, AND
A LOTTA FRIENDS ARE GONNA BE **MIGHTY**
CROSS WITH ME IF I DON'T DO WHAT
I'M **SUPPOSED** TO DO!





POOR MRS. O'NEIL! SHE'S NEVER SEEN A *AMAZING* BEFORE! SHE RACES MADLY DOWN THE FLIGHT OF STAIRS AND DIALS THE TELEPHONE WITH TREMBLING HANDS...

OPERATOR,
G-GIVE ME
THE
POLICE!

HOURS LATER, BILL DIGBY RETURNS TO THE ROOMING HOUSE, IT IS ALMOST DUSK...

HERE WE
ARE AT MY
WORKSHOP
RALPHIE! IN A
MINUTE...

...I'M GOING TO PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M THE REAL--

POLICE
OFFICERS,
DIGBY!

HUNH--!!

WE'D LIKE TO
ASK YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS--

GOOF--!

SORRY, FLEE!
I GOTTA SEE A
MAN ABOUT A
DOG!

NO, JULIE, DON'T!
WAIT'LL HE'S IN THE CLEAR
OR YOU'RE LIABLE TO HIT
ONE OF THEM
SHOPPERS!

BLAM! BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

THERE
HE IS!
GET HIM!



BILL DIGBY TRUDGES HEAVILY THROUGH THE SLUSH-CLOGGED STREETS... HIS BODY WRACKED WITH A WHITE-HOT FEVER AND HIS SHOULDER THROBBING WITH AN ANGRY PAIN... AND FINALLY...



FUN & LOW PRICES at most of these fine stores!
McCRORY * McLELLAN * H. L. GREEN * BRITTS * J. J. NEWBERRY * HESTED * S. KLEIN

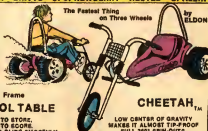


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FEEL REAL!**



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POLAR
BEAR**
GROWLING
REALISTIC
WITH
LEASH



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SNAKE**

HE'S FRIENDLY,
HE'S FEROCIOUS.
OVER 2 1/2 FEET.



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WONDER
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**ALFIE
ALLIGATOR**



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FINISH METAL CHAIN LEASH
AND NAME TAG.



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FRIENDS. TAKE 'EM BOTH.

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Sample Copy 75 cents

12 Issues \$8.00

24 Issues \$16.00

52 Issues \$29.00



JUST 5-50... THEY
W-WON'T FIND ME...

...IN
G-CASE
I... I...
BLACK
OUT...!

BILL DISBY'S SHOULDER STILL
THROBS, AND DRIED BLOOD
CAKES HIS HAND LIKE A
GRISLY RED GLOVE! NO
WONDER, THEN, THAT BILL
DISBY CRAWLS BENEATH
THE TARPULIN... AND
LAPSES INTO
UNCONSCIOUSNESS...



WITHIN SECONDS...

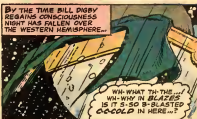
CAN'T IMAGINE
WHY I THOUGHT I
HEARD A NOISE BACK
HERE!

GUESS THIS OLD
HEAD'S JUST SEEN
TOO MANY
CHRISTMASES!



AN' SPEAKIN'
OF CHRISTMAS,
IT'S HIGH TIME I
GOT STARTED!

IT'S ONLY AROUND
MIDNIGHT IN EUROPE
AND AFRICA, BUT IF I WANT
TO GET TO ASIA AND AUSTRALIA
BEFORE THE KIDS GET OUT OF
BED, I'LL REALLY HAVE TO
POUR ON SOME MUSTLE!



BY THE TIME BILL DISBY
REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS
NIGHT HAS FALLEN OVER
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE...

WH-WHAT TH-THE...!
WH-WHY IN BLAZES
IS IT 5-50 B-BLASTED
C-COLD IN HERE...?



I'D BETTER
GET OUT
FROM UNDER
THIS...

GOOD NIGHT! WHAT
IS THIS? WH-WHY IF
I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER,
I'D SAY TH-THIS THING
WAS F-FLYING!

AH, YES, BILL DIGBY THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS, AND YOU ARE SOARING THROUGH THE COAL-BLACK NIGHT, A STOWAWAY ON HIS MAGIC SLEIGH...



TH-THIS MAY BE SOMEbody'S IDEA OF A PRETTY FUNNY JOKE... BUT I'M GETTIN' OUTA HERE!

OH, NO, BILL DIGBY *DON'T* STAND UP! IT'S NOT *SAFE* TO STAND ON THE MAGIC SLEIGH... FOR SOMETIMES THE FLYING REINDEER *FALTER*... SOMETIMES, WITHOUT WARNING, THE SLEIGH *URNS*...



WHA-? OH NO...? I-I'M P-FAL...



THAT'S THE SECOND TIME TONIGHT I THOUGHT I HEARD A FUNNY NOISE!



OH WELL, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU GET TO BE FIFTEEN HUNDRED YEARS OLD!

END

KARATE

JUDO-JIU-JITSU-SAVATE

THE TOTAL SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEM

In the shortest time you can learn the fantastic secrets of self-defense and you'll never be afraid again! This unique Home Course will reveal hundreds of fighting secrets that you can put to immediate use. Easy and exciting to learn, you'll be able to master any difficult situation. In less than 15 minutes a day, the knowledge of the World's Top Fighting Experts can be Yours!

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Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



"FEATHERTOP"

NOT A SCARECROW

ADAPTED FROM A STORY BY:
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

SCARCE GERRY BOUDREAU



IT IS NOW LATE
MAY, AND THE
CROWS HAVE
ALREADY
DISCOVERED
CORN PEERING
UP OUT OF THE
SOIL! NOW
MOTHER RISKY--
A MOST POTENT
WITCH--COULD
MAKE A
SCARECROW
UGLY ENOUGH TO
FRIGHTEN THE
MINISTER
HIMSELF...

BUT ON THIS OCCASION, SHE RESOLVED TO
PRODUCE SOMETHING **SPLENDID**...

NOT BAD!
I'VE SEEN WORSE
HEADS ON HUMAN
SHOULDERS!

BUT THE CLOTHES WERE TO BE THE
MAKING OF THE MAN, AND...

I'VE MADE MANY
A PUPPET SINCE
I'VE BEEN A WITCH,
BUT THIS IS THE
FINEST OF THEM
ALL! 'TIS ALMOST
TOO GOOD FOR
A SCARECROW!

AYE, IT'S TOO GOOD A PIECE OF WORK
TO STAND ALL SUMMER IN A **CORN
PATCH**! WHY, I'VE DANCED WITH WORSE
ONES WHEN PARTNERS WERE SCARCE
AT OUR **WITCH MEETINGS** IN THE FOREST!

WELL, I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DABBLE IN
WITCHCRAFT TOOMY, BUT
I'LL MAKE A MAN OF MY
SCARECROW IF ONLY
FOR THE JOKE'S
SAKE!

PUFF AWAY,
MY FINE FELLOW!
YOUR LIFE
DEPENDS ON IT!

MIRACULOUSLY, THE
SCARECROW APPLIED ITSELF
LUSTILY TO THE PIPE AND
SENT FORTH SUCH ABUNDANT
VOLLEYS OF SMOKE THAT
THE ENTIRE VALLEY SEEMED
TO VANISH IN THE VAPOR!

UNTIL, FINALLY—

HAH!
THOU HAST A
MAN'S
ASPECT!
HAST THOU
ALSO A
VOICE? I
BID THEE
SPEAK!

I
WOULD
SPEAK, BUT
BEING
WITHOUT
WITS, WHAT
CAN I
SAY?

THOU SHALT SAY A THOUSAND
THINGS, AND SAYING THEM A
THOUSAND TIMES OVER, THOU
WILT STILL HAVE SAID
NOTHING!

WITH THAT
ALONE, THOU
CANST PAY THY
WAY ALL OVER
THE EARTH!

THE WORSHIPFUL
MASTER GOOKIN HATH
A COMELY MAIDEN
FOR A DAUGHTER! WITH
THY APPEARANCE AND
THY WIT, THOU SHALT
MAKE HER THINE
OWN!

MY WIT,
MOTHER
KISBY?

AYE, THOU WILT
THINK BETTER OF
THINE OWN, WHEN
THOU HAST SEEN THE
WITS OF OTHERS!
REMEMBER—KEEP
PUFFING THE PIPE
OR THOU WILT TURN
INTO A BAG OF STRAW!

NOW
FAREWELL,
AND IF ANY
SHOULD ASK,
THY NAME IS
FEATHER-
TOP!

AS FEATHERTOP APPROACHED THE VILLAGE, THE TOWNSPEOPLE STARED IN AWE AND ADMIRATION...

IT IS SOME GREAT NOBLEMAN, WITHOUT QUESTION! I NEVER SAW A MAN OF SUCH DIGNITY!

AWE! AND LOOK AT HIM PUFF THAT PIPE!



AMID THE GENERAL ADMIRATION, THERE WERE ONLY TWO DISSIDENT VOICES! ONE WAS THAT OF A MANGY DOG, WHICH PUT ITS TAIL BETWEEN ITS LEGS AND RAN OFF WITH A HOWL...



THE OTHER DISSIDENT WAS A YOUNG CHILD WHO SQUALLERED AT THE FULLEST STRETCH OF HIS LUNGS AND BABBLERD SOME NONSENSE ABOUT A PUMPKIN...



FINALLY, HE ARRIVED AT THE MANSION HOUSE OF JUSTICE GOOKIN AND KNOCKED BOLDLY UPON THE FRONT DOOR...

JUSTICE GOOKIN! I HAVE COME TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER!



POLLY, THIS IS LORD FEATHERTOP! PAY YOUR DUTY TO HIS LORDSHIP CHILD, AND HONOR HIM AS HIS TITLE DESERVES!



WITH THAT, THE WORSHIPFUL MAGISTRATE QUITTED THE ROOM!

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...AND THIS
IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING
OF THE MOST
PRICELESS
COMICS
SERIES EVER
PUBLISHED!

**COMING
NEXT...**

THE 1ST BATMAN
IN (DEFECTIVE COMICS)

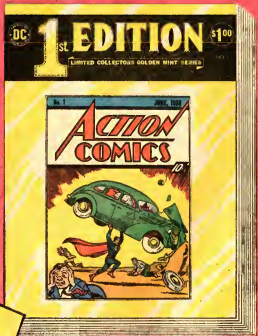
WHIZ COMICS
STARRING THE ORIGINAL
CAPTAIN MARVEL

SENSATION COMICS
STARRING
Wonder Woman

BATMAN COMICS
FIRST ISSUE OF

SUPERMAN
COMICS

THIS IS
THE GOLDEN
WRAP-AROUND
COVER THAT
PROTECTS YOUR
SPECIAL MINT
COPY!!



IT'S PURE **GOLD!**

THEN, POLLY AND FEATHERTOP EXCHANGED THE MOST CORDIAL AND BANAL OF CONVERSATION; BLAME PRETTY POLLY'S ABILITY RATHER THAN HER WILL IF SHE FAILED TO BE AS COMPLETE AN ARTIFICE AS FEATHERTOP HIMSELF...



THE LONGER THE CONVERSATION CONTINUED, THE MORE CHARMED WAS PRETTY POLLY, UNTIL WITHIN THE FIRST QUARTER OF AN HOUR (AS JUSTICE BOOKIN NOTED BY HIS WATCH) SHE EVIDENTLY BEGAN TO BE IN LOVE...



BUT AS THEY EXITED, THEY CHANCED TO PASS A FULL-LENGTH MIRROR WHICH OF COURSE WAS INCAPABLE OF FLATTERY...

YOUR LORDSHIP,
OOOOOOO=HHH!!



YET THE JUSTICE COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM PEEKING INTO THE ROOM--FOR SOMETHING ABOUT FEATHERTOP FASCINATED HIM! PERHAPS THE EFFECT OF ANYTHING COMPLETELY ARTIFICIAL IN HUMAN SHAPE IMPRESSED EVEN THE DARK REACHES OF THE MIND...



BY THE END OF THE HOUR, THE BILLY MAIDEN'S HEART WAS ABOUT TO BE GIVEN TO AN ILLUSION! YET IS IT SO UNUSUAL A MISFORTUNE?

COME, POLLY!
I SHALL ASK YOUR
FATHER FOR YOUR
HAND IN
MARRIAGE!



AND FEATHERTOP TOO SAW THE BORDO PATCHWORK OF HIS REAL COMPOSITION, STRIPPED OF ALL WITCHCRAFT! FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME IN ANY MORTAL EXISTENCE, AN ILLUSION HAD BEEN AND RECOGNIZED ITSELF!

MOTHER RIBBY WAS BEATEN BY HER KITCHEN HEARTH IN THE TWILIGHT WHEN SHE HEARD THE CLATTER OF STICKS BEHIND HER...



FEATHERTOP!
WHAT HAS GONE
WRONG? DID THAT
SNIFFLING HYPOCRITE
THRUST YOU FROM
HIS DOOR?

NO!

THEN DID HIS DAUGHTER
SCORN YOU? I'LL COVER HER
FACE WITH PIMPLES! HER
NOSE SHALL BE AS RED AS
THE COAL IN THY PIPE!
HER FRONT TEETH SHALL
DROP OUT!



LET HER ALONE, MOTHER! IT
WAS NONE OF THAT! I'VE BEEN
MYSELF, MOTHER... SEEN MYSELF
FOR THE WRETCHED, RAGGED,
EMPTY THING I AM!



I'LL EXIST NO
LONGER! I WANT TO
GO BACK TO BEING A
SCARECROW! 'TIS
AN INNOCENT AND
USEFUL VOCATION
AND WOULD SUIT
ME WELL!



POOR FELLOW!
THERE ARE THOUSANDS
OF CHARLATANS IN THIS
WORLD MADE UP OF NO
MORE THAN HE WAS...
YET THEY LIVE IN FAIR
REPUTE AND NEVER SEE
THEMSELVES FOR
WHAT THEY ARE!



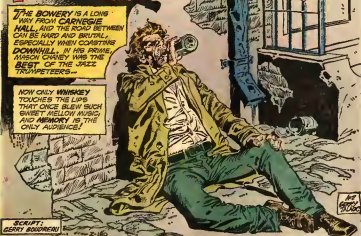
AYE, IT'S A SHAME MY POOR PUPPET
BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW HIMSELF
AND PERISH FOR IT! ALAS, I'LL
MAKE A SCARECROW OF HIM
AFTER ALL!

"THE DEMON HORN"

THE BOWERY IS A LONG WAY FROM CARNEGIE HALL, AND THE ROAD BETWEEN CAN BE HARD AND BRUTAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN COASTING DOWNHILL. IN HIS PRIME, MASON CHANEY WAS THE BEST OF THE JAZZ TRUMPETEERS—

NOW ONLY WHISKEY TOUCHES THE LIPS THAT ONCE BLEW SUCH SWEET MELLOW MUSIC, AND MEMORY IS THE ONLY AUDIENCE!

SCRIPT:
GERRY BOODREAU



BUT EVEN THE WORST LUCK HAS A WAY OF CHANGING—

HEY, YOU MASON CHANEY? THE NAME'S WHITNEY LORD AND I GOT AN OFFER FOR YA!

IF IT'LL BUY ME ANOTHER DRINK, I'LL TAKE IT!



IT'LL DO MORE THAN THAT! I WANT YOU TO DO A WEEK'S GIG AT THE VILLAGE BEAT CLUB!

MRISTER, YOU NEED THIS MORE THAN I DO! I AIN'T PICKED UP A HORN IN TWELVE YEARS!

THEN I SUGGEST YOU GET YERSELF ONE, CHANEY! YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, A
REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION
OCCURS...

THE ADVANCE I
GOT FROM MR. LORD
MAKES ME LOOK
HALFWAY HUMAN
AGAIN! BESIDES,
I NEED THE BREAD
TO GET MYSELF
A NEW
INSTRUMENT!



HEY--THERE'S ONE IN
THE WINDOW OF THAT PAWN
SHOP! FROM THE LOOKS OF
THE PLACE I CAN GET IT
PRETTY CHEAP! I'M
PROBABLY THE ONLY CUSTOMER
HE'S HAD IN YEARS!



I'M
LOOKING
FOR A--

A TRUMPET,
PERHAPS? I HAVE
JUST THE THING
FOR YOU MR.
CHANEY!



AS YOU CAN SEE
MR. CHANEY, IT IS
A VERY SPECIAL
HORN.

IT LOOKS
KATHER... ODD!
DO YOU MIND
IF I TRY IT?



YOU MUSTN'T
TRY IT HERE!
BUT IT'S YOURS
FOR ONLY TEN
DOLLARS!

I'LL
TAKE
IT!





SO, A FEW NIGHTS LATER, MASON CHANEY DEBUTS AT THE VILLAGE BEAT CLUB, PLAYING WITH ALL HIS FORMER BRILLIANCE...

IT'S AS THOUGH THIS HORN HAD A WILL OF ITS OWN—I COULDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE IF I WANTED TO!



AND, AS THE SHOW COMES TO A CLOSE...

YOU DID IT, CHANEY! THE SHOWSTOPPER TO END 'EM ALL! KEY, WAIT A MINUTE--NOBODY'S APPLAUDING! ...



IT CAN'T BE! ALL NIGHT THEY LOVED MY STUFF! WHAT HAPPENED?



BUT, AS CHANEY STEPS OUT INTO THE AUDIENCE...

DEAD! EVERY FREAKIN' ONE OF THEM-- DEAD!

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DC TAKES A GIANT STEP FORWARD IN '74!



That treachery human postman just slipped a batch of letters into the slot and now he's running—look at him go—for the sidewalk. Think he'll outrun the fen fiend at his heels? Oh, no matter . . . let's look at the mail.

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

Welcome to the Dark Mansion! Whether your doing or not, issue number 13 was the best issue in ages. Well, not really, as all the mystery magazines are currently exceptionally good. This issue, though, was almost flawless, especially in the area of art.

"The Man Who Waxed and Waned" features the best Alcala art I've seen. This artist has taken Nestor Redondo's place as the best DC mystery artist. And the script was involving. The only half-way bad thing about the presentation was that Mike Kaluta's cover interpretation was sloppy.

Why didn't you credit Gil Kane and inker Wayne Howard for the splendid artwork on "The Eavesdropper"? Certainly they deserve recognition. Had I not seen the credits listed in Paul Levitz's fine Comic Broder, I would have guessed it to be the work of Gil Kane and Wally Wood.

I have a few questions. What is meant by "art continuity"? And how about a few lines of biography on Russell Carley, Michael Fleisher, and Don Karr?

If this is any indication of the way you run a mystery magazine, by all means, stay around!

Mark Lucke, Beeville, Texas

Karr is an actor who moonlights as a writer. Fleisher is the author of the forthcoming "First Encyclopedia of Great Comic Book Heroes" who moonlights as a comics scripter. Carley is a painter who moonlights as a guy who tells the artists what pictures to draw—"art continuity" he calls his job. And the person you said should "stay around" is a Ghostly Unmentionable who moonlights as a hunter being . . .

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

To tell the truth, I was expecting a lot more of Dark Mansion #13 than I got. The quality that seems to come with your name wherever it appears was not there this time.

A Mike Kaluta cover is ordinarily something to cheer about. But this time I was not cheering. The faces were ridiculous looking. I saw the signature and I told myself, "Now, can't be." Guess everybody has his bad days.

The first story contained the only fathomable reason for having paid 20c for the book. You know what the reason was? Al Alcala, that's what. Combine a good script with Alcala's art and one gets a truly masterful

piece of work. Compare this story with the second one and you will see what I mean. The second story had a good plot but it did not go over very well because of the amateurish art.

DC has several good horror artists that are not seen regularly enough. Could it be that these artists want higher pay, causing editors to go to cheaper and inferior material? Maybe the number of mystery titles could be cut down so that the best material could be put together. I, for one, would rather see one really good book than two or three mediocre ones.

Bruce Barnett, Port Arthur, Texas

All artists want raises. Why, they have the gall to demand two bowls of dog gravel daily. The nerve . . .

Dear Denny,

Very glad to see you appointed the new editor. You have a knack of improving publications once you take them over. (Though Mr. Orlando was doing very well.) The cover by Kaluta was weird and I missed his opening splash page of the sensuous she.

"The Man Who Waxed and Waned" would have been routine had it not been for super art by Alcala. "The Eavesdropper" by Kane and Howard was really shocking. The mature script and beautiful art helped pull it off.

Craig Ledbetter, Houston, Texas

Dear Denny,

Your first outing as the editor of Dark Mansion was fantastic.

The Kaluta cover was superb. He has got to be tied in first place with Wrightson for best cover artist. (With the exception of Adams, and lately, I've only seen him in the National Lampoon.)

Back to Dark Mansion: "The Man Who Waxed and Waned" was a good story—too bad it was drawn by Alcala. His art is nice, but too much is too much. He has done innumerable stories for DC's mystery mags since his debut in Sinister House last summer. It's getting plain tiring.

I, personally, would like to see more Wood (by himself). Kaluta, Nino, Ransbery, Buckler, Williamson, Frantzia (yes, I know it's impossible, but can't you just ask for one measly cover?), Wrightson and Reese. But like I said, don't overdo one artist.

Les Peterson, (No address given)

Last word: Torment a postman today! Send letters to:
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75 Rockefeller Plaza
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IDEAL

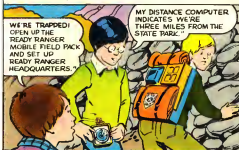
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THREE MILES FROM THE
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"I'LL CALL FOR
HELP THROUGH
MY PA HORN.
HELP! HELP!"

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HUDDLE TOGETHER IN THEIR READY RANGER PONCHOS.



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NORTH STAR WITH
MY READY RANGER
STARFINDER."

"THE LOOKOUT TOWER
SHOULD SPOT OUR
READY RANGER
SIGNAL LIGHT."

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THEY'VE SPOTTED
OUR SIGNAL.



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